

# THE COMMONWEALTH GROWS

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## Agricultural Development Board Investment Philosophy

**The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board will invest monies from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund in innovative proposals that increase net farm income and affect tobacco farmers, tobacco-impacted communities, and agriculture across the state through stimulating markets for Kentucky agricultural products, finding new ways to add value to Kentucky agricultural products, and exploring new opportunities for Kentucky farms and farm products.**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The next meeting of the Agricultural Development Board will be on Friday February 15, 2002 in the Brown-Forman Room of the Kentucky History Center. Please call (502) 564-4627 for additional information.

## LEGISLATORS MAKING IMPORTANT DECISIONS DURING 2002 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN-MARK HACK

The 2002 session of the General Assembly is in full swing and your legislators need to hear from you. Your state legislators are making some tough decisions. They are deciding, in the context of a large state budget shortfall, whether or not to renew their financial commitment to the agricultural development process.

They need to know from you that our work has only just begun and that to truly realize the long-term change that is necessary, we need the additional financial commitment for the Agricultural Development Fund.

They need to know that given the strong commitment of local leaders, we can facilitate the development of economic activity that will help address the state's budget needs over the long term. They need to know that these resources are being used to build up our farm economy and that doing so will inevitably expand the state's economic base. They need to know that each and everyone of you supports what Governor Patton said in his State of the

Commonwealth address:

"We urge you, no matter what the temptation, no matter how great the need in other areas, no matter how great the pressure from other deserving constituents, to stay the course, to maintain the commitment, to keep faith with our farmers."

While the actions of the county councils and state board are historic in nature, we can't take it for granted that our leaders in the General Assembly have a full appreciation for what has been undertaken. Tell them about it. Contact your legislator to let them know that working together, we are beginning to make a positive difference and that local leadership stands united in support of continuing our efforts to build a prosperous future for our farm families. The toll free number to leave a message for your legislator is 1-800-372-7181.

## STATE BOARD APPROVES LONG-TERM PLAN FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

During its January meeting, the Agricultural Development Board approved "Cultivating Rural Prosperity: Kentucky's Long Term Plan for Agricultural Development." After a two-day work session in which final changes were made to the document, the board voted unanimously to approve the document.

The plan represents Kentucky's first effort to develop a comprehensive plan for agricultural development and was mandated by House Bill 611 that created the Agricultural Development Fund. The document is a product of the agricultural development plans developed by county councils, the input received at 17 regional meetings held across the state, a series of state-level meetings, and dozens of written comments submitted by individuals and groups. The planning

process was inclusive of a wide variety of perspectives.

The plan recognizes several major challenges confronting Kentucky's agricultural community including the task of developing a world-class marketing infrastructure to get Kentucky farm products to consumers, making more financial assistance available to a larger number of people looking to reduce their economic dependence on tobacco, and addressing environmental issues. It also recognizes the need for further development of local and state leadership and maintaining cutting edge research and development efforts.

After approving the final version, the Board immediately took steps to begin imple-

## Counties in Each Extension Area

### Bluegrass

Bourbon \* Clark \* Estill \*  
Fayette \* Harrison \* Madison \*  
Nicholas \* Powell \*  
Scott

### Fort Harrod

Anderson \* Boyle \* Franklin  
\* Garrard \* Jessamine \* Lincoln \*  
Mercer \* Woodford

### Green River

Daviess \* Hancock \* Henderson \*  
McLean \* Ohio \*  
Union \* Webster \*

### Lake Cumberland

Adair \* Casey \* Clinton \*  
Cumberland \* Green \*  
McCreary \* Pulaski \* Russell \*  
Taylor \* Wayne

### Licking River

Bath \* Bracken \* Fleming \*  
Lewis \* Mason \* Menifee \*  
Montgomery \* Morgan \*  
Robertson \* Rowan

### Lincoln Trail

Breckinridge \* Grayson \*  
Hardin \* Larue \* Marion \*  
Meade \* Nelson \* Washington

### Louisville

Bullitt \* Henry \* Jefferson \*  
Oldham \* Shelby \* Spencer \*  
Trimble

### Mammoth Cave

Allen \* Barren \* Butler \*  
Edmonson \* Hart \* Logan \*  
Metcalf \* Monroe \* Simpson \*  
Warren

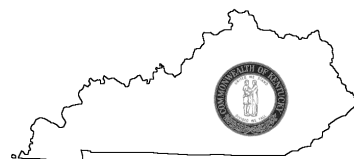
## LONG-TERM PLAN CONTINUED

mentation of the plan, which makes recommendations in six major areas.

First and foremost, the top priority in every county plan, in every regional meeting, and in many written comments received during the plan development process is the development of a marketing system that can place Kentucky farm products within easy reach of consumers across the state, the nation, and the globe. As a first step, the board set aside \$13 million, half of the remaining state funds, as the first installment for the development of a comprehensive marketing system.

Second, the plan recognizes that we must expand the access to capital for farm families and agricultural businesses across the state to increase the opportunities for prosperity. Producers trying new ventures have needs for improved access to affordable credit that are not currently addressed, affecting the value-added processing of agricultural products. To begin the development of such tools, the board passed a resolution in their January meeting calling on Governor Patton to reactivate the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation to expand the capital access tools available to farm families and businesses across the state.

The third major area is related to environmental stewardship. As protectors of our state's natural resources, our farm families should be compensated for the public value they produce in their care for our soil and water resources, our timber stands, and our



cherished open spaces.

Fourth is farm family education, including the strengthening and improved accessibility of education and training programs tailored specifically to the unique requirements of our farm families.

Fifth is the pressing need for support of local leadership including leadership development programs aimed specifically at agricultural development issues, administrative support for the vitally important work being done by each of our county agricultural development councils, and the strengthening of the Cooperative Extension Service network by increased training opportunities and performance incentives for our county extension agents.

Finally, the plan calls for a sustained commitment to the research and development efforts that are crucial to keeping farmers informed of and in pace with the changing demands of consumers.

The final version of this plan will be going to print in the very near future and we hope to provide copies of this document within the next 30 days. The most recent draft is still available on our website at [www.kyagpolicy.com](http://www.kyagpolicy.com).

## KENTUCKY CENTER FOR COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT BRINGS TOGETHER COOPERATIVES FROM AROUND THE REGION

The Kentucky Center for Cooperative Development, funded in August 2001 by the Agricultural Development Board, is hosting "The Cooperative Winter School" February 19-20, 2002 at the Executive West Hotel in Louisville. The Center was created to provide technical assistance to emerging and established cooperatives throughout Kentucky. Working in cooperation with the University of Kentucky, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board, the program is designed for all new and

emerging cooperatives. The topic areas will include state and national cooperative success stories, federal support programs, strategic planning, financing your cooperative, and other issues of concern to cooperatives. Scholarships are available to Kentucky cooperative managers and board of directors. Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and Tennessee cooperatives, cooperative development professionals, state departments of agriculture, and extension agents are also encouraged to attend.

The registration fee is \$100. Call Heath Hoagland at (859) 257-7272 extension 283 for registration forms or additional information.

## GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY ANNOUNCES NEW STAFF MEMBERS AND ASSIGNMENTS BY EXTENSION AREA

<u>Extension Area</u>	<u>Primary Contact</u>	<u>Secondary Contact</u>
Bluegrass	Angela Utterback	David Bratcher
Fort Harrod	Jeff Harper	Kara Keeton
Green River	Bill McCloskey	Rhodes Johnston
Lake Cumberland	Kara Keeton	Joel Neaveill
Licking River	Rhodes Johnston	Chauncey Morris
Lincoln Trail	Chauncey Morris	Penny Cline
Louisville	Joel Neaveill	Jeff Mosley
Mammoth Cave	Bill McCloskey	David Bratcher
Northeast Kentucky	Sandra Gardner	David Bratcher
Northern Kentucky	Chauncey Morris	Rhodes Johnston
Pennyrile	Stephen Yates	Joel Neaveill
Purchase	Stephen Yates	Jeff Harper
Quicksand	Angela Utterback	Joel Neaveill
Wilderness Trail	Rhodes Johnston	Stephen Yates

## Counties in Each Extension Area Continued

### Northeast Kentucky

Boyd \* Carter \* Elliott \*  
Floyd \* Greenup \* Johnson  
\* Lawrence \* Magoffin \*  
Martin \* Pike

### Northern Kentucky

Boone \* Campbell \* Carroll  
\* Gallatin \* Grant \* Kenton  
\* Owen \* Pendleton

### Pennyrile

Caldwell \* Christian \* Crit-  
tenden \* Hopkins \*  
Livingston \* Lyon \*  
Muhlenberg \* Todd \* Trigg

### Purchase

Ballard \* Calloway \* Car-  
lisle \* Fulton \* Graves \*  
Hickman \* Marshall \*  
McCracken

### Quicksand

Breathitt \* Knott \* Lee \*  
Leslie \* Letcher \* Perry \*  
Owsley \* Wolfe

### Wilderness Trail

Bell \* Clay \* Harlan \* Jack-  
son \* Knox \* Laurel \* Rock-  
castle \* Whitley

## PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING AT THE JANUARY BOARD MEETING

The Forest School Inc.- \$94,307 (State) will establish a gourmet mushroom spawn lab to help farmers and other woodland owners earn more money and grow sustainable food in their wood lots

Spencer County Board of Education- \$50,000 (Spencer County) will create a comprehensive aquaculture and hydroponic greenhouse project

The Meade County Grain Growers- \$42,000 (Meade County) will cost-share for crop consulta-  
tion through hiring certified crop advisers

Jessamine County FFA Alumni Association- \$12,500 (Jessamine County)

Grayson County Cattlemen Association- \$2,500 (Grayson County) will use the funds for cattle improvement services

Heifer Development Project- \$250 (Floyd County) contribution to the project

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## AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY JOINS TOGETHER FOR THE KENTUCKY OPPORTUNITY MARKETPLACE CONFERENCE

The Kentucky Opportunity Marketplace Conference brought members of the agricultural community to Frankfort for two days of education, communication, and celebration. The first day of the conference, January 28, was a leadership session for county agricultural development council members and extension agents. Over 180 attendees had their questions about the agricultural development process answered by staff of the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy, members of the Agricultural Development Board, and Department of Agriculture experts. They also met in regional groups to share their successes and ideas for the future. And they learned more about the resources available to them as local leaders to assist in their efforts.

The second day of the conference, January 29, was kicked off by Governor Patton who voiced his continued support for Kentucky agriculture and welcomed exhibitors and attendees. Farming entrepreneur Laura Freeman and business partner John Tobe spoke about their company, Laura's Lean Beef, and described the evolution of their

now successful agri-business.

Attendees toured the wide variety of exhibits offering information and such food samples as catfish, bourbon coffee, ham, apple cider, CLA enhanced cheese, and goat summer sausage. The youth involved in agriculture spoke during the lunch hour that spotlighted FFA and 4-H members. Over 150 people registered to take part in the free educational tracks offered for development of a marketing plan and business plan, access to capital, and business structure, talking to experts from the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Kentucky Small Business Development Center, the Department of Agriculture, and the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy. And the winners of the statewide agricultural photography contest received their awards.

The event, designed to educate and facilitate communication, was successful in bringing people together to focus on agriculture's success and its future. For those interested in the educational material provided, please call the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy at (502) 564-4627.